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CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED  
 SECURITY INFORMATION  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia  
 SUBJECT Political - Arrests, sentences  
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper  
 WHERE PUBLISHED Prague  
 DATE PUBLISHED 4 Apr 1952  
 LANGUAGE Czech

REPORT   
 CD NO.   
 DATE OF INFORMATION 1952  
 DATE DIST. 12 Aug 1952  
 NO. OF PAGES 1  
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Rude Pravo.

SPECULATORS SENTENCED FOR  
 HOARDING PRECIOUS METALS

The trial of six speculators, former wholesale traders in gold, jewelers, goldsmiths, and watchmakers, has just been concluded. These persons were accused of fraud in connection with supplies of precious metals and watchmakers' needs.

The worst offender was Frantisek Kodat, goldsmith and watchmaker, who managed to accumulate precious metals and other goods in the amount of 31 million crowns. Vaclav Klus, former wholesaler in precious metals, had buried in the earth and secreted with various acquaintances metals and goods in the amount of 15 million crowns. Jan La Motte, a silversmith, at the time of the nationalization program, had held back metals and silver goods valued at 8 million crowns. Jan Soral, a goldsmith, had secreted gold and precious metals in excess of 15 million crowns. Miloslav Suchma, a trader in gold, had hoarded gold valued at 4,800,000 crowns. Zdenek Mrazek, a jeweler, had gold and jewels in his possession in excess of 3 million crowns.

All of the accused men were from Prague, and the hearings were conducted before a tribunal of five members of the okres criminal court. After 2 days, they were found guilty and sentenced as follows: Frantisek Kodat, 12 years; Vaclav Klus, 8 years; Jan Soral, 8 years; Jan La Motte, 6 years; and Miloslav Suchman and Zdenek Mrazek, 7 years each.

In addition, all six were deprived of all their property by confiscation and deprived of the rights of citizenship for 10 years.

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